(b) Details of FCV tobacco production are given below :

Year	State	Number of Growers	Area Planted (in hectares)	Quantity Marketed (million kilograms)	Value of tobacco (Rupees in crores)
1998-99	Andhra Pradesh	44351	128657	146.41	510.04
	Orissa	125	366	0.55	2.36
	Maharashtra	70	207	0.22	0.60
	Karnataka	18371	54236	54.69	182.52
1999-2000	Andhra Pradesh	44443	128296	130.75	420.36
	Orissa	126	345	0.50	1.77
	Maharashtra	60	119	0.12	0.32
	Karnataka	18427	51989	45.30	190.58
2000-01	Andhra Pradesh			Crop Holiday	
	Orissa	121	466	0.72	3.28
	Maharashtra			Crop Holiday	
	Karnataka	18131	40012	41.98	231.05
2001-02	Andhra Pradesh	44198	87397	119.48	396.91
	Orissa	121	279	0.46	1.76
	Maharashtra	48	78	0.11	0.29
	Karnataka	18751	47699	57.68	220.97
2002-03	Andhra Pradesh	44220	92705	115.85*	**
	Orissa	116	284	0.45	—
	Maharashtra	31	22	0.03	—
	Karnataka	19351	56364	63.26	275.81

(Source : Tobacco Board)* estimated production **Auctions are in progress

(c) to (f) Information is being collected.

MPEDA to encourage Marine Product Exports

3112. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has noted the need to develop strong buyer-seller relations to foster better growth and stability in the export of marine products;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of US experts have advised MPEDA to encourage marine product exporters to think long term and create trust and confidence in buyers of marine products; and

(c) if so, the incentives given by MPEDA to encourage Indian exporters to follow this policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MPEDA conducted a market study in USA through M/s. H. M. Johnson and Associates, one of the leading marketing consultants. The study has recommended a marketing approach to overcome the negative perceptions and to develop image among buyers.

(c) In order to increase the exports of marine products, Government have been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; participation by MPEDA in international fairs, conducting overseas market surveys; etc.

Growth Centres at Gandhidham, Palanpur and Vagra in Gujarat

3113. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the three Growth Centres at Gandhidham, Palanpur and Vagra have become functional in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of plots allotted at each of the Centres, so far; and

(d) which industries are generally being set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir,

Vagra : An effluent treatment plant is being commissioned here shortly. No plot has been allotted here so far. Chemical units are expected to come up here.

Gandhidham : There are 115 plots under offer/allotment stage. Light Engineering Manufacturing Units and household furniture units are expected to come up here.